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01.12.2010

Eurozine Review Habsburgia reduced to its urban core

"Transit" encounters eastern Europe with Tony Judt; "Polar" advances (critically) into a brighter future; "Critique & Humanism" debates the challenge to democracy; "Springerin" dissects the Solidarnosc logo; "Samtiden" sees the Norwegian pendulum swing from diversity to assimilation; "Vikerkaar" finds charlatans thriving at scientific conferences; "Roots" joins a readers' circle interpreting Marx anew; and "Le Monde diplomatique" (Oslo) works out in cyberspace.

Headlines

Roman Schmidt

Utopian failing

Two journal projects



JOURNALS HISTORY Maurice Blanchot's journal "Revue Internationale" was an attempt at an engaged form of publishing in a world shaped by decolonization and bloc confrontation. Yet it collapsed along the same national boundaries it had set out to overcome. [\[English version added\]](#) [\[more\]](#)

03.12.2010

Ivaylo Ditchev, Tomas Kavaliauskas

Territory, identity, transformation

A Baltic-Balkan comparison



DIALOGUE Lithuania and Bulgaria: subjected to neoliberal forces of disintegration, territorial identities in the regulated zone of market democracy that is new Europe re-pattern along altered lines of conflict. Ivaylo Ditchev and Tomas Kavaliauskas share Baltic-Balkan perspectives on the present. [\[more\]](#)

02.12.2010

Felix Stalder

Contain this!

Leaks, whistle-blowers and the networked news ecology



CHANGING MEDIA The WikiLeaks exposés are altering the informational landscape for good. Whilst acknowledging the structural leakiness of networked organizations, Felix Stalder finds deeper reasons for the crisis of information security and the new distribution of investigative journalism. [\[more\]](#)

29.11.2010

A LOOK INTO THE LATEST ISSUES

Eurozine Review

Habsburgia reduced to its urban core

JOURNALS DIGEST "Transit" encounters eastern Europe with Tony Judt; "Polar" advances (critically) into a brighter future; "Critique & Humanism" debates the challenge to democracy; "Springerin" dissects the Solidarnosc logo; "Samtiden" sees the Norwegian pendulum swing from diversity to assimilation; "Vikerkaar" finds charlatans thriving at scientific conferences; "Roots" joins a readers' circle interpreting Marx anew; and "Le Monde diplomatique" (Oslo) works out in cyberspace. [\[more\]](#)

01.12.2010



Roman Frydman, Michael D. Goldberg

Market mysticism



FINANCIAL CRISIS Faith in the "efficient markets hypothesis" is largely to blame for the massive deregulation of the late 1990s and early 2000s that made the crisis more likely, if not inevitable. Two economists excoriate the ideology of self-regulating markets and its pseudo-scientific foundations. [\[more\]](#)

30.11.2010

Cornelia Klinger

Tricolour – three colours of justice



POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY The modern notion of justice linked to ideas of human rights and democracy is highly complex, pulling in different directions. Cornelia Klinger explains how "justice" as

Focal points [click for more](#)

Changing media -- Media in change



The newspaper crisis, the future of the book, intellectual property, privacy: on a field experiencing profound transformation. [\[more\]](#)

The bonfire of the universities

University strikes coincide with the ten-year anniversary of the Bologna process: on the debate enflaming (not only) Europe. [\[more\]](#)

Post-secular Europe

From the cartoon crisis and minaret ban to the multiculturalism debate: on the politics of post-secular Europe. [\[more\]](#)

Editor's choice [click for more](#)

Michael Azar

The stranger, the mother and the Algerian revolution A postcolonial reading of Albert Camus



"The best possible future for the Arab people." Why Camus never entirely renounced the civilizing premise of colonialism. [\[more\]](#)

Mary Midgely

Against humanism

Of course we should love, honour and cherish our species, says British moral philosopher Mary Midgely. But should we have to worship it too? [\[more\]](#)

Vron Ware

Lives on the line

How an official language of heroism and sacrifice serves to exclude those who oppose British military engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan. [\[more\]](#)

Debate series [click for more](#)

Europe talks to Europe



From Autumn 2009 to Spring 2011, Eurozine organizes a series of debates in various central and eastern European cities. [\[more\]](#)

Media, politics and the tyranny of opinion Eurozine debate on 6 December in Sofia

What happens to democracies when media marketization combines with digital technologies? Ivaylo Ditchev and Judith Vidal-Hall will discuss the place of politics in the culture of constant feedback. [\[more\]](#)

Literature [click for more](#)

Katharina Raabe

As the fog lifted



In the twenty years since the fall of communism, literature has been lifting the fog settled over eastern central Europe. [\[more\]](#)

Literary perspectives

The re-transnationalization of literary criticism

Eurozine's series of essays aims to provide an overview of diverse literary landscapes in Europe. Covered so far: Croatia, Sweden, Austria, Estonia, Ukraine, Northern Ireland, Slovenia, the Netherlands and Hungary. [\[more\]](#)

Behind the headlines [click for more](#)

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Concrete touched by Mies

20.10.2010

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I decide how I live my Islam

29.09.2010

Eurozine Review
"I never watch television"

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Soon there will no longer be contemporary witnesses of Nazi crimes. The culture of remembrance is facing a profound change....



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we understand it today can be inferred from the conceptual trinity of the French Revolution. [\[more \]](#)
01.12.2010

Boyan Znepolski

On the strengths and weaknesses of academic social critique

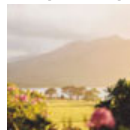


SOCIOLOGY The pragmatist renunciation of sociology's critical exclusivity is reversed by Luc Boltanski, as capitalist "displacements" and new forms of domination demand the return to a critical method. Yet Boltanski stops short of calling democracy itself into question, writes Boyan Znepolski. [\[more \]](#)
26.11.2010

Arnd Pollmann

Cold comfort

The philosophy of history for advanced readers



PROGRESS The theoretical failure of revolutionary Marxism has meant that the philosophy of history has been consigned wholesale to oblivion. The result is that we now lack an "image" of history that allows us to date the present, argues Arnd Pollmann. [\[more \]](#)
30.11.2010

IN FOCUS

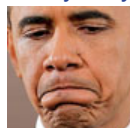


Climate of change?

FOCAL POINT Social agreement about the necessity of radical ecological change may be unprecedented, yet rhetoric and reality go their separate ways. Are multilateral climate deals inherently ineffective? Is the declaration of commitment to sustainability an exercise in societal self-delusion? The UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun must yield results if climate politics is to regain credibility. [\[more \]](#)
30.10.2009

George Blecher

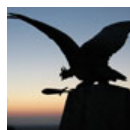
Everybody's scapegoat



US MID-TERM ELECTIONS Once wildly popular, President Obama is now under fire from all directions. Is it because his thinking is too complicated for an age of sound bites, asks George Blecher, or does he lack the kind of passion that the American electorate thrives on? [\[more \]](#)
25.11.2010

Zsófia Bán

The Turul bird and the dinosaur



EUROPEAN HISTORIES Following the political logic of pop-cultural palaeontology, Hungary's resurgent far-Right excavates archaic cultural identities for the youth of today. Mythical symbols of national strength fill the historical void felt by post-'89 generations, writes Zsófia Bán. [\[more \]](#)
24.11.2010

Eurozine News Item

The case against Tintin



RACISM On 22 November, the publishers of Tintin in the Congo had to appear before a court in Brussels charged with racism. Morten Harper says that what is so controversial about the case is that the plaintiff is right but ought nonetheless not to be proven right. [\[more \]](#)
23.11.2010

Advertising



Jiri Pehe, Benedict Seymour

The critical divide

Marxism: Radical alternative or totalitarian relic?



MARXISM "We need look for an alternative to the current system, but if we do so under the flag of communism we are bound to fail." "Class is not disappearing, it is becoming more

Gesine Schwan

Knowledge is not a shovel
Universities and democratic society

The primary aim of education must be to nurture the ability to reflect, to develop new ideas, and to implement these collectively. Cognitive multilingualism is the only way to prevent the specialization of knowledge narrowing our horizons to an extent that results in structural irresponsibility. [\[more \]](#)

► **Conferences** [click for more](#)

Eurozine emerged from an informal network dating back to 1983. Since that time, a variety of European cultural magazines have met once a year in European cities to exchange ideas and experiences. In the meantime, approximately 100 periodicals from almost every European country have become involved in these meetings.

European histories

The 22nd European Meeting of Cultural Journals
Vilnius, 8-11 May 2009



The 22nd European Meeting of Cultural Journals took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, 8 to 11 May 2009. Under the heading

"European Histories", the Eurozine conference explored the role of history and memory in forming new identities in a Europe in change. [\[more \]](#)

► **Multimedia** [click for more](#)



Multimedia section including videos of past Eurozine conferences in Vilnius (2009) and Sibiu (2007). [\[more \]](#)

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and more brutally pronounced." Benedict Seymour and Jiri Pehe discuss Marxism between eastern and western Europe. [\[more \]](#)

18.11.2010

Eurozine News Item

► En

Media, politics and the tyranny of opinion

Eurozine debate series continues in Sofia



PUBLIC DEBATE We live in a media-driven culture of constant feedback. In Eurozine's series "Europe talks to Europe", Ivaylo Ditchev and Judith Vidal-Hall will discuss what room is left for politics in a social order determined by public opinion. The debate takes place on 6 December in Sofia. [\[more \]](#)

18.11.2010

Tim Engartner

► De ► En

Stuttgart 21: Back to the future



RAILWAYS Plans to convert Stuttgart's rail terminus into an underground through-station have met with massive resistance. Supporters of the prestige project argue that there is no alternative to "modernization"; yet critics point to exorbitant costs, misguided rail policy and misuse of public funds. [\[more \]](#)

17.11.2010

Slavenka Drakulic

► De

Glancing back (2009-2010)



YUGOSLAVIA Recalling childhood trips abroad, Slavenka Drakulic suspects Yugoslavians were corrupted by the freedom to travel. "My generation confused democratic freedom with the freedom to shop in the West. The wars that followed were the almost medieval retribution for that." [\[more \]](#)

17.11.2010

Henry Laurens, Marc-Olivier Padis, Avi Shlaim

► Fr

The conflict and the historian

Interview with Henry Laurens and Avi Shlaim



MIDDLE EAST "The great power is more often the prisoner of its local allies than the other way round." Dialogue with two historians, one of Israel, the other of Palestine; reflections on the impact of history on society and the interaction between local and global powers. [\[more \]](#)

16.11.2010

Richard Tempest

► En ► Ru

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, (anti)modernist



LITERATURE For Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, modernism in Russia foretold "the most destructive revolution of the twentieth century". Exploring Solzhenitsyn's (dis)engagement with European modernism, Richard Tempest argues he employed modernist means to achieve anti-modernist ends. [\[more \]](#)

12.11.2010

Michael Azar

► En

The stranger, the mother and the Algerian revolution

A postcolonial reading of Albert Camus

LITERATURE The existential themes of "The Stranger" hide Camus' critique of French rule in Algeria. Yet Camus never entirely renounced the civilizing premise of colonialism. The reason lies in his relation to his mother, writes Michael Azar on the fiftieth anniversary of Camus' death. [\[more \]](#)

15.10.2010

Mary Midgley

► En

Against humanism



PHILOSOPHY We are quite right to love, honour and cherish our species and to concern ourselves deeply about its

future, says British moral philosopher Mary Midgley. But should we have to worship it too? And why should that particular form of concern be called humanism? [\[more \]](#)

03.11.2010

Janice Galloway

► En

Anything but ordinary



ART "That Breugel saw people as significant in themselves – unexplained and various and simply being – was what rang home." Janice

Cas Mudde

► En

The intolerance of the tolerant



TOLERANCE The advance of populist anti-Islamic forces in the liberal bastions of northern Europe – Denmark, the

Netherlands and Sweden – appears to reflect a betrayal of these societies' renowned social tolerance. But there is a more subtle logic at work, says Cas Mudde. [\[more \]](#)

29.10.2010

Edit András

► De

The national question is unavoidable



ART AND POLITICS Eastern European artists have still to exploit the potential of art to critique national consensus on

Galloway reveals her lifelong fascination with the 16th century Flemish painter, whose love of the "ordinary", she believes, chimes with the Scottish character. [\[more \]](#)
03.11.2010

historical issues. Now that, in Hungary, cultural policy is controlled entirely by conservatives, the question of nationalism has become unavoidable, writes Edit András. [\[more \]](#)
09.11.2010

Tina Denninger, Stephan Lessenich, Anna Richter, Silke van Dyk

► De

The "upgrading" of age: A social farce

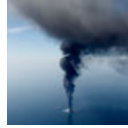


AGEING Old age is increasingly seen as a social resource, the discourse promoting a win-win situation in which society makes use of the elderly while acknowledging their worth. So does this mean that older people are about to witness an improvement in their social status? [\[more \]](#)
03.11.2010

Bernhard Schlink

► De

The future of responsibility



ETHICAL POLITICS The 19th and 20th centuries saw the institutionalization of mutual solidarity. Lacking today,

according to Bernhard Schlink, is a sense of responsibility that takes into account the effects of actions inherent to particular systems on society as a whole. [\[more \]](#)
03.11.2010

Simon Mawer, Marek Seckar

► En

Letting in the light



INTERVIEW The most recent novel of British author Simon Mawer centres around a Czech family and their house, a fictional

reworking of Mies van der Rohe's Villa Tugendhat in Brno. A discussion with the writer about real and literary buildings, Brno, and about uncertainty in art. [\[more \]](#)
02.11.2010

EUROPE AND THE ROMA

□

Horatio Morpurgo

► En Fr

Letter from the edge

POVERTY While racism has exacerbated the destitution of the Roma, there is another dynamic at work. The treatment of Roma in Lille shows how, rather than be forced to reflect on the link between affluence and belonging, society pushes the problem to the edges. **[French version added]** [\[more \]](#)
21.10.2010

Valeriu Nicolae

► En Ro

On France, Gobineau, colonialism and the Roma

RACISM Attempts by successive French governments to deal with Roma migrants smacks of colonial racism, argues Valeriu Nicolae. Deportation will not solve anything; the problems that exist in Roma settlements are the result of decades of indifference. [\[more \]](#)
12.10.2010

Olivier Peyroux

► Fr Ro

The Roma: A new political weapon?

MYTHS OF DIFFERENCE The notion that cultural difference is to blame for the marginalization of the Roma is a myth, writes Olivier Peyroux. Lack of public awareness of successful Roma integration compounds their permanent pariah status. [\[more \]](#)
12.10.2010

Bernard Schmid

► De

Sarkozy the firebrand

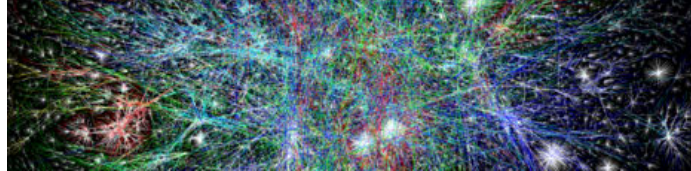
FRENCH DEPORTATIONS The high-profile deportation of Roma migrants was the prelude to a larger law-and-order campaign by the French government aimed at recapturing the rightwing vote and diverting attention from the Bettencourt scandal, writes Bernard Schmid. [\[more \]](#)
13.10.2010

READ ALSO: **"The enemy within":** In Romania, Bulgaria and Hungary, it is the media that more often than not instigate the witch hunts against Roma, writes **Valeriu Nicolae**; **"Guns, fire and ditches":** Zoltán Tábori on the spiral of crime and anti-Roma violence in small Hungarian communities facing increasing competition for employment and education.

IN FOCUS

Changing media -- Media in change

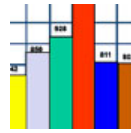
NEW FOCAL POINT Media-technological developments are causing a fundamental re-structuring of the newspaper and publishing sectors. Yet media change is about more than just the "newspaper crisis" and the iPad: property law, privacy, free speech and the functioning of the public sphere are all affected. A new Eurozine focal point debates a field experiencing profound and constant transformation. [\[more \]](#)
16.09.2010



Ivaylo Ditchev

Bg En

Democracy "live"



MEDIA AND POLITICS The marketization of the media combines with digital technology to create a political order determined by public opinion, writes Ivaylo Ditchev. For political decision-making, the question whether opinion is right or wrong becomes secondary to its legitimacy as a form of feedback. [\[more \]](#)
14.09.2010

Pascal Fouché, Olivier Mongin, Marc-Olivier Padiš

En Fr

Will the book enter the digital age?

An interview with Pascal Fouché

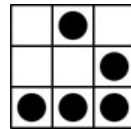


FUTURE OF THE BOOK The digitization of the book has brought a new balance of power in the trade, with established publishers locked in struggle with the new digital distributors. Pascal Fouché discusses whether publishers are prepared for the dematerialization of the printed word. [\[more \]](#)
29.07.2010

Mikhail Xifaras

En Fr

Copyleft and the theory of property



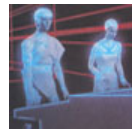
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY A battle is underway between the supporters of intellectual property and the defenders of

"the commons". Mikhail Xifaras traces the history of the concept of "exclusive rights" and evaluates the emancipatory claims of the copyleft movement today. [\[English version added\]](#) [\[more \]](#)
16.09.2010

Kathrin Passig

De En

Commonplaces of technology critique



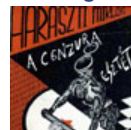
TECHNOLOGY What is it good for? A passing fad! It makes you stupid! Today's technology critique is tomorrow's

embarrassing error of judgement. Kathrin Passig's suggestion: one should try to avoid repeating the most commonplace critiques, particularly in public. [\[English version added\]](#) [\[more \]](#)
16.09.2010

Béla Nóvé

En Lt

Talking about censorship and the lost world of samizdat



CENSORSHIP In 1980s Hungary, as in the USSR and other communist ruled countries, censorship and opposition to it was a crucial issue. A onetime dissident turned historian recalls the passionate debates at the time and establishes their continuing relevance in the post-Wall world. [\[more \]](#)
27.10.2010

Janis Taurens

En Lv

Has the twentieth century ended?



LATVIAN ART After visiting an art exhibition in the Riga Art Space, Janis Taurens drops by his friend Vasilij Voronov where he confesses his disappointment with the exhibition. Like Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson they go on to analyse the Latvian art scene of the last century. [\[more \]](#)
25.10.2010

READ ALSO: ["A grain of sand in the seashell"](#): Latvian artist **Barbara Gaile** in interview with **Liga Marcinkevicha**.

Suren Pillay
(The picture)

En Sv



FACTION Mixing fact and fiction, Suren Pillay tells a compelling story about journalistic ethics. A photographer takes a

picture of a young man throwing a petrol bomb during a 1985 township riot and ponders over the possible consequences of publishing the photo. [\[more \]](#)
19.10.2010

Paul Doumouchel

Fr

Ban the burqa?



SECULARISM The French burqa ban met with broad agreement: the parliament was near-unanimous, Left and Right were both

enthusiastic and public support was massive. This despite the fact it violated every principle of good lawmaking, writes Canadian ethical philosopher Paul Doumouchel. [\[more \]](#)
18.10.2010

János Gerle

En

The resurrection of László Hudec



ARCHITECTURE In China, a resurgence in interest in the

Anna Aslanyan, Mavis Gallant

En Ru

"Why did they need to chop down the trees?"

An interview with Mavis Gallant



INTERVIEW As an ex

architecture of the "bourgeois era" has led to the rediscovery of Hungarian architect László Hudec, famous for Shanghai's Park Hotel (1931-1934). János Gerle recalls the life and work of one of the pioneers of Chinese modernism. [\[more \]](#)

18.10.2010

patriot in Paris, Canadian novelist Mavis Gallant experienced May '68 first hand, keeping a diary of the events that was published two decades later. In interview with her Russian translator, she bemusedly recalls the revolutionary fervour of the day. [\[more \]](#)

13.10.2010

EUROPE TALKS TO EUROPE

Eurozine News Item

► En

Public debate: Multiculturalism at its limits?



PUBLIC DEBATE "Multiculturalism undermines the very opportunity that diversity offers: to enter into a dialogue about citizenship." In the fifth debate in Eurozine's series "Europe talks to Europe", Kenan Malik and Fero Sebej discussed an issue back at the top of the European political agenda. [\[more \]](#)

01.10.2010

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